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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further discussion. Senator Kopplin, followed by Senator Howard.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I rise to support Senator Connealy's amendment. I'm looking at the material that was handed out to us about accomplishments of this person. This is incredible. But I want to explain a little bit something. I think they've done an excellent job. They talk about increases in student achievement, reading, math. Achievement scores are up. But I think we need to look at it a little bit different. Maybe the achievement scores are up because teachers did learn a little bit about the culture of the people they were working with. Teachers need help. They aren't trained that way in college, and this person evidently has done the job. I'd like to point out that when we talk about achievement testing and testing of children, test companies develop achievement tests for one reason only, and that's to make money. They sell tests, so they are designed and normed for white, middle-class kids who live in the suburbs, because that's where their biggest customer base is going to be. If they went a little bit further and offered some tests dealing with a different culture--whether it is Hispanic, whether it's Indian, or what, I don't care which--if tests were offered with a different cultural slant, you would hear an uproar from white suburban parents, because their children would not be doing so well, and yet you would see other groups of children improving greatly. And yet we take these designed tests and make a judgment on whether a school has been successful or whether they haven't, because of a test score that they got, which was completely ignorant of cultural needs. I'm going to vote for this amendment. I think if such a person does nothing more than get out and talk to teachers and say, look, when you're talking about achievement, let's talk about cultural factors first. If you can convince some teachers that they need to change what they're doing, we'll see great increases in achievement, and that's important to me. I'm going to support this. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kopplin. Further discussion on AM2677. Senator Howard, followed by Senator Don